



*Always Ready  
Always There*

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## **Idaho Army National Guard Executes Angkor Sentinel 2015**

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KAMPONG SPEU PROVINCE, Cambodia – The Idaho Army National Guard arrived in Cambodia last week for the commencement of Angkor Sentinel 15, March 9. Angkor Sentinel is an annual bilateral exercise sponsored by U.S. Army Pacific and hosted by the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, focusing on humanitarian assistance and responding to disasters. This year marks the sixth iteration of this significant and highly productive regional training exercise.

This year's event, which takes place from March 9 to 20, is the sixth time the IDARNG has undertaken the annual bilateral military exercise conducted between U.S. Armed Forces and Royal Cambodian Armed Forces.

"The biggest difference we've seen from last year to this year is the progression of the RCAF senior leaders," said Lt. Col. Darren Blagburn, the operations officer for Idaho Task Force. "Their capabilities and their experience have proven invaluable and they're helping the junior leaders in their development. As well, the National Guardsmen that have come back bring a wealth of experience because they know what the challenges are upfront and have solutions in their kitbags."

Soldiers from the IDARNG will conduct a combined battalion staff exercise alongside their RCAF counterparts at the Training School for Multi-National Peacekeeping Forces in Kampong Speu Province, in addition to conducting Junior Leader Training, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Exchange, Medical Responder and Jungle Operations training.



Lt. Col. Scott Sheridan, Idaho Army National Guard salutes Generals John Goodale, Idaho Army National Guard Deputy Commanding General-Army, and Hun Manet, Deputy Chairman of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Joint Staff, during the opening ceremony for Angkor Sentinel 2015. The exercise promotes military readiness and interoperability and is the U.S. Army Pacific's capstone Security Cooperation event with Cambodia. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Chris McCullough, U.S. Army Pacific Public Affairs)

According to the Assistant Adjutant General-Army, Brig. Gen. John Goodale of the Idaho Army National Guard, Angkor Sentinel 2015 will provide an opportunity for Soldiers to exchange ideas and to improve their skills for operating in a local, regional and global environment.

Likewise, Goodale points out that a few miles north of the Peacekeeping Operations Center, Cambodian and US Engineers will share in the pride of improving the quality of life for the students and faculty at the Tirumket School in Chbar Morn City. The Civil Engineer Action Project aims to improve their interoperability and contingency planning between U.S. and RCAF troops.

"The Soldiers will bond as they sweat in the March heat ...," Goodale said. "This exercise will improve military readiness

and professionalism and create lasting memories and friendships."

Angkor Sentinel 2015 is the sixth iteration of the exercise and is intended to provide a training environment for troops from the Cambodian and United States armies to learn from one another.

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